



Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2023

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (3.33 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Education, Employment and Training Committee Report No. 26, 57th Parliament, *Mount Gravatt TAFE Upgrade Project*, tabled on 18 October 2022.

I am so proud of our Palaszczuk government's investment in our TAFE buildings. The opportunity to inquire into the upgrade at Mount Gravatt TAFE demonstrated our commitment in spades to skills and training and to providing state-of-the-art environments for those skills to be honed. As part of the inquiry we looked at the \$19.78 million Mount Gravatt TAFE campus. It had three overarching projects under the Advancing our Training Infrastructure. It included a new Fashion Centre of Excellence and revitalised horticulture and state-of-the-art filmmaking and amphitheatre spaces. It also included the upgrade of A block, facilitating the relocation of TAFE Queensland's corporate team to the campus. Another fantastic initiative within the project was the refurbishment of J block to provide social enterprise tenants with safe and fit-for-purpose facilities. They are fantastic upgrades in amazing spaces.

I spoke with the students and the trainers there on the day and they absolutely love this new space. The Fashion Centre of Excellence—seriously, I was nearly ready to take away an enrolment form myself and sign up. It is absolutely state-of-the-art. The 3D modelling technology that was there was the latest in digital technology so that students can design and create fashion; it was incredible. The printers were amazing whether they were looking to print on fabrics or on leathers. It is state-of-the-art equipment. The laser cutters were incredible. One of the trainers specialises in making leather goods and she had beautiful bags on display that day.

The digital aspect of this is quite incredible. I was blown away by the big digital screens that are on the front facade of the building. They are absolutely magnificent. It is like watching a digital catwalk of the students' work that is constantly on display for anybody at that campus to check out. They have positioned TAFE to be the leader and that is why it is called the Fashion Centre of Excellence: it is absolutely excellent.

The horticulture space was amazing, too. I walked away on the day with a few extra plants in the car to bring back to parliament. Again, they have established it in such a way that there is a retail nursery component. It is converting the skills and training into employment. We heard from a number of students and trainers there who said they were either working for Bunnings or had been able to get into boutique nurseries or landscaping firms. I was really surprised to see the internal training spaces for the horticulture; they looked like laboratories for horticulture. They were absolutely outstanding. Again, they were state-of-the-art for people looking to train in that horticultural space. That was absolutely fantastic.

In terms of the film space, we could just see the students were so engaged. Again, there was state-of-the-art equipment in a state-of-the-art space training our filmmakers of the future, our editors of the future and our directors of the future. All in all, I do not think anyone can doubt how good the

Mount Gravatt TAFE upgrade is or what absolute value for money we have seen in that space. As I said, we also saw the spaces that have been refurbished and upgraded to allow for the move of the corporate headquarters. I think that is a sensible way of consolidating space and making sure that our campuses are fully utilised.

I say thank you very much to the committee for our day trip there. It was fantastic. I also say thank you very much to the department that provided an awful lot of information on the project and the way it was broken down. The Mount Gravatt project was part of the \$85 million Advancing our Training Infrastructure that looked at Mount Gravatt and Alexandra Hills in my patch—and I have seen some great work there as well. I am so proud of the work that the member for Capalaba and I have done in revitalising that campus. It will always be the Palaszczuk government that backs in our skills and training and delivers the infrastructure we need to ensure we can provide jobs for today and jobs of the future through our skills and training investment. I commend the report to the House.